

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 02375 130411Z

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 EPG-02 SIL-01 OMB-01
IO-13 NSC-05 /080 W

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R 121320Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5251

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY PORT

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 2375

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, JM

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS ON US/JAMAICA ECONOMIC MEETINGS

1. BRITISH, DUTCH, CANADIAN AND FRG EMBASSIES HAVE ALL REQUESTED ON URGENT BASIS A BACKGROUND BRIEFING ON THE NATURE AND OUTCOME OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED US/JAMAICA JOINT TALKS ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION. WE BRIEFED BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION OFFICER MAY 9 AND FRG AMABASSADOR MAY 10. BRIEFINGS AVOIDED SPECIFICS AND DEALT PRIMARILY WITH WARM AND RESPONSIVE TENOR OF THE JOINT TALKS, A GENERAL REVIEW OF THE SHORT TERM FOREIGN EXCHANGE CRISIS, SOME DISCUSSION OF THE GOJ BUDGET WITHOUT REFERENCE TO SPECIFICS, AND AN EQUALLY VAGUE DISCUSSION OF THE DECISIONS WHICH ARE NOW FACED BY THE USG. WE HAVE TAKEN CARE TO STRESS FACT THAT US TEAM VISIT WAS ESSENTIALLY EXPLORATORY AND THAT NO COMMITMENTS WERE MADE.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON A POSSIBLE CON-
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SORTIUM, WE HAVE INDICATED OUR BELIEF THAT IT IS UNLIKELY THERE WILL BE TIME TO MOUNT ANY FORMAL EFFORT BEFORE THE FOREIGN EXCHANGE POSITION OF THE GOJ REACHES A CRITICAL STAGE. WE ALSO HAVE INDICATED THAT THE US HAS WELCOMED AND ENCOURAGED THE JAMAICAN SIDE TO TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE IN PROVIDING A CONSULTATIVE OR CONSORTIUM UMBRELLA UNDER WHICH

DONOR COUNTRIES MIGHT ADDRESS THE LONGER RANGE DEVELOPMENT PROBLEM.

3. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ON OUR POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE IMF, WE HAVE INDICATED THAT WE CONSIDER THE IMF AGREEMENT WITH JAMAICA TO BE VERY IMPORTANT FOR THE SOLUTION OF JAMAICA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS BUT THAT US ASSISTANCE WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE TIED DIRECTLY TO AN IMF AGREEMENT.

4. FRG AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED EARNEST HOPE THAT US TEAM WOULD CONDUCT DEBRIEFING SESSION IN WASHINGTON IN NEAR FUTURE, PERHAPS WITH SAME COMPOSITION AS PRE-VISIT BRIEFING. HE NOTED THAT CONSORTIUM IDEA HAD BEEN MENTIONED IN WASHINGTON PREVIOUSLY AND THAT OTHER DONORS ARE WAITING ANXIOUSLY TO SEE WHAT POSITION THE US TAKES ON THIS MATTER. HE ALSO NOTED FRG FOREIGN MINISTRY PROBABLY PREPARED TO CONSIDER FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO JAMAICA BUT THAT SUCH CONSIDERATIONS ARE AWAITING REPORT FROM USG.
DORRANCE

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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